Buckley Elementary School

Bobcat News

A Great Place to Grow and Explore

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Bobcat Central

250 Vernon Street Manchester, CT 06042

> Phone: (860)647-3302 Fax: (860)647-5007 Illness: (860)647-3344 Nurse: (860)647-3303

Principal's Corner

March 2015

As we enter March, Buckley School teachers are in the process of finalizing their March parent/guardian conferences. A letter detailing the day and time of your conference was sent home during the week of February 23rd. As a reminder, during the December conferences parents/guardians signed up for their March conferences. If you have not signed up for a conference, please work closely with your child's teacher so as to secure a date and time.

While at your child's conference, you will be asked to complete our parent/guardian survey. This is similar to a survey that you were asked to complete last school year. There will be computers available to complete the parent survey. As a reminder, this is a parent survey on Buckley School. Please take the time to complete this very important survey. Based on the survey results from last school year, Buckley staff focused on ensuring that all students feel connected to our school.

Also taking place in March, students in grades 3-5 will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment (**SBAC**). This on-line, computerized assessment focuses on reading and math. The **SBAC** is taking the place of the Connecticut Mastery Test (**CMT**). Please note that a letter was sent home to all grade 3-5 students outlining the testing window. If you need a copy of this letter, please feel free to contact the school. In addition, grade 5 students will also take the **CMT** for science only.



Bobcat News

Principal's Corner Continued

In addition, I also would like to encourage everyone to visit the district website as a reminder of few revised district policies. Specifically, I would like to draw your attention to our recently revised attendance policy. This policy is very clear and I encourage you to read this carefully. Also, I would like to remind you of our district policy specific to bullying. I sent it home in the early Fall. As always, if you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am providing a list of dates and times of events for your convenience. This is a list of March events.

March 10 Science Fair

March 12 **PTA** meeting

March 17-19 Report Card Conferences

March 16-20 Book Fair

March 20 Family Game Night

Lastly, I have provided, for parents of students in grade 3-5, a copy of the letter that went home regarding the **CMT** and **SBAC** assessments. Please take a look at this. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Also, I am preparing for kindergarten classes for the 2015-2016 school year. In this newsletter is a letter asking about potential incoming kindergarten students. Please take the time to read this and respond, if appropriate.

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

Matthew Daly





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Manchester Public Schools

Buckley Elementary School 250 Vernon Street Manchester, CT 06042 www.mpspride.org **Mr. Matthew Daly,**Principal

b21mdaly@manchesterct.gov Phone: 860-647-3302 Fax: 860-647-5007

A Great Place to Grow and Explore

February 27, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you know, each year Buckley School conducts a parent survey in the spring. This parent survey provides valuable information for Buckley School. With this information that you provide, I am able to craft my School Improvement Plan. With this information, the Buckley staff will design a focus for the 2015-2016 school year. The survey will be online for you to complete. I will notify you once it is live.

I am sharing this information with you because I anticipate the survey being active/live during your child's conference. I will have computers available for you during conferences. I hope you take a few minutes to complete this survey, as your input is very valuable.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above phone number. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

Principal

Pride in Excellence



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MONTH of MARCH 2015

Sun-	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat-
day 1	2 B Day	3 C Day	4 A Day	5 B Day	6 C Day	urday 7
	ROCKS 3:25–4:25		Fifth Grade Field Trip			
8	9 A Day ROCKS 3:25–4:25	10 B Day 6:30-7:30 Science Fair/ Invention Connection	11 C Day	12 A Day	B Day Pep Rally 2:30 PM	14
15	16 C Day ROCKS 3:25–4:25	17 A Day 1:17 DISMISSAL CONFERENCE DAYS	18 B Day 1:17 DISMISSAL CONFERENCE DAYS	19 C Day 1:17 DISMISSAL CONFERENCE DAYS	20 A Day Fun Friday 2:30 Family Game Night 6:30 PM	21
22	26 B Day ROCKS 3:25–4:25	24 C Day First Grade Field Trip	25 A Day 1:17 DISMISSAL	26 B Day	27 C Day Family Game Night Snow Date 6:30 PM	28
29	30 A Day ROCKS 3:25– 4:25	31 B Day				

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Kindergarten

February has been a busy month for us. We were busy practicing writing letters to friends in our class in preparation for Valentine's Day. This has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to improve on their writing skills. The children are working hard on sounding out words and reading sight words. Please keep practicing and encouraging this at home.

March will be another fun-filled busy month for us. We will continue to introduce new sight words as we work on strengthening our reading and writing skills. Reading folders will be starting soon. This is a great way for you to observe as your child's emerging reading skills continue to develop.

In math, we will continue to practice our addition and subtraction skills while also focusing on strengthening our number sense. It's report card time again! We look forward to meeting with you for March conferences!



Thank you, Mrs. Hoffman and Miss Lavallee

First Grade

February was a cold and snowy month! We look forward to meeting with parents in March to discuss the growth of our beautiful students! We will continue to work on reading and understanding non-fiction text. We will also continue our work with writing non-fiction pieces. Please continue to have your child practice their math facts as well as retelling a story with characters, setting, problem, and solution. Thank you for all your support during this wintery weather; this is the best time to work on skills while the weather is too cold to go outside.

Thank you, Mrs. Bourcier, Miss Patrylak, and Ms. Seaha

Second Grade

February was a heartfelt month for our second grade students! We thoroughly enjoyed sharing the array of creative and unique Valentine boxes!

With all of the snow that February brought, we will continue to work on informational writing as the month of March "blows in." The students will begin to add vigorous verbs and transition words into their informational pieces to enhance their overall writing.

This month, the students will continue to read informational texts and examine various text features. Be sure to ask your child to tell you what knowledge can be gained from specific features. Don't forget to read those captions as they provide us with a deeper understanding of the topic being explored!

In math, the students have continued enhancing their problem solving skills through participating in realistic everyday problems dealing with buying and spending. March will be filled with "measurement madness" as students begin to discover how to estimate and measure with standard units. Please continue to practice basic math facts at home as this is an essential skill necessary for moving forward with more chal-

lenging mathematical tasks!



We would like to thank you in advance for attending your child's conference! Conferences are a wonderful way to bolster the home-school connection and enhance your child's educational experience.

Thank you, Miss Adams and Mrs. Strickland

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Third Grade

We are all looking forward to seeing each of you at parent/teacher conferences on Tuesday, March 17, Wednesday, March 18, and Thursday, March 19. It is a great time to share all of your child's successes and identify areas in need of growth.

Students are continuing to be immersed in the world of fractions. They will be learning how to identify parts of a whole, and equating that fraction with a place on a numberline. Students will be comparing fractions and creating equivalent fractions. Benchmark fractions are ½, ½, ¼, ¼, and ½.

In ELA, we are finishing up the Lucy Caulkins unit on Informational Writing. We are finishing up Comparing and Contrasting in Reading and we will be starting on Problem and Solution.

Thank you, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Sweetland, and Mrs. Edwards

Fourth Grade

We made it! We are so happy that spring is just around the corner! Over the past several chilly weeks fourth graders have been reading about "Other Worlds" through multiple genres. This includes fables, myths, legends, fantasies, poetry, and drama. We are writing essays and continuing our online reading too.

In math, the fraction unit will take us all the way to April vacation. The children have been finding equivalent fractions and comparing fractions. Now we are moving into the complicated work of adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions. If you are going to be doing any baking please be sure to let your child help measure. The more real world connections we provide our mathematicians with the better!

We are looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming March conferences and at the March PTA meeting.

Thank you, Ms. Godbout, Mrs. Hoke, and Ms. Marocchini

Fifth Grade

February has gone by so quickly! We are happy to welcome spring this month. We will wrap up our colonial projects this month and present the handmade projects with our research reports. We want to thank all the parents for their help and support through this process. The projects were wonderful and the oral reports evidenced a great deal of knowledge gained.

During this month, your student will take the **SBAC** assessment and science portion of the Connecticut Mastery Test. We ask for your cooperation in making sure your child has had a good night's sleep and a good breakfast to ensure optimum testing performance. We have practiced hard and are ready to show what we know!

In social studies, we will be studying the events leading up to the Revolutionary War and how the thirteen colonies became the United States of America. During this unit, we will be incorporating pieces of literature, poetry, and films to help bring this period to life.

Lastly, we are looking forward to seeing all the fifth grade parents at conference time. Thank you, Miss Brahm, Mrs. Jodoin, and Mrs. Adinolfi

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Coach's Corner

Join the PTA and myself for Family Game Night on Friday, March 20, 2015! This is a wonderful opportunity to have some family fun and play a variety of games (many that incorporate lots of math).

There will be Game Olympics, open games to play and math games with Mrs. Miner. The games with me will be a variety of games aligned with Common Core Math standards. There will be a flyer with sign up information and more details coming home in early March.

I hope you can join us for this very exciting evening!

Thank you,

Lisa S. Miner Numeracy Coach



MAP News

Last month our themes were friendship and hearts. We made valentines for our families. We sent valentines to our friends in the classroom. We worked on greeting our friends. We continue to work hard to acquire new skills. We added two new songs to our circle activities. They were "The President's Day Song" and "10 Little Valentines". We are looking forward to warmer weather!

Thank you,

Mrs. Rodowicz





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Specials

P.E.



Ms. Falkowski's K-2 classes have just finished working on their jumping, leaping, and hopping skills. They have since moved into a throwing and catching unit. The students are working on underhand and overhand throwing skills. Ms. Falkowski's 4th grade class has just begun working on their basketball skills.

Mr. Kolze's K-2 classes have just finished working on floor hockey skills. The students learned how to hold a hockey stick, dribble, and shoot a ball.

Grades 3 through 5 were involved in a unit of games. We played and learned a variety of new games. The students in grades K-5 are now working on developing their basketball skills.

Thank you, Mr. Kolze and Ms. Falkowski

ART

We have been busy in the Art room working on our artwork for the upcoming PTA fundraiser. You will have a chance to order your child's artwork on a variety of products such as notecards, mugs, magnets, and cell phone cases. In the past, this has been an important fundraiser for our school. These make great gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day! More information will follow regarding this through the PTA.

We are also getting ready for the upcoming Lutz Exhibit on March 6, 2015, (snow date 3/13/15) at 6:30 for Buckley artists who will be represented. If your child's work has been chosen for this exhibit, you will have received a permission slip to sign. Please send it back as soon as possible! This is a great honor, due to the limited space, only about forty pieces are chosen to represent Buckley School. It is always a fun event!

Despite the bitter cold, I have noticed that the days are getting longer and I am looking forward to our Spring projects to take over soon!

Thank you, Mrs. Maloney

MUSIC

Greetings from the music room!

Dancing has kept all of us warm here in the music room! Sword dances and stick dances for the older students, circle dances for the middle grades, and line and scarf dances for the youngest students. Dancing to music helps feel the sense of the beat as well as a sense of style!



Students have had a chance to learn about some Black History Month topics in the music classroom. The younger kids have heard "Charlie Parker Played Be-bop" - ask your kindergartner or first grader about how words can be used to make music - just because they are fun to say! The older students watched a video

from the British television show Horrible Histories, all about how Rosa Parks "Sat on the Bus". It is catchy and educational!

Keep singing, everybody! Thank you, Mrs. Leonard

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The Family Resource Center

Lunch Bunch is Starting!

Bunch" "Lunch grades kindergarten to 3rd grade.

"Lunch Bunch" is a literacy program that focuses on making reading fun by getting the family in-



with their student and participate in age appropriate reading and activities. The groups are organized by grade to ensure the students are comfortable with the reading content and engaged in the activities. These currently take place at other Family Resource Centers in Manchester **Public**

I am very excited to an- volved in this process. Schools and are enjoyed nounce that the Family "Lunch Bunch" invites by the students and fami-Resource Center at Buck-parents, guardians and ly alike. Permission slips hosting adult family members were sent home to Kinfor into the school to eat dergarten to 3rd grade



Sean Webster Family Resource Center Coordinator Phone: 860-647-3302

E-mail: swebster@mpspride.org

and were due by January 30th. I have received the permission slips and have been planning. "Lunch Bunch" will be extended to 4th and 5th grades after I am able to determine the level of participation from the other grade levels. My goal is to have everyone interested to participate at least once before expanding to the 4th and 5th grades.

Produce of the month of March: March from 95210

Nutritional Information:

- Mangoes are very low in saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium
- They are a good source of dietary fiber, Vitamin A, B6, and C
- Mangoes are rich in phytochemicals which help slow the aging process and reduce the risk of many diseases.

Selecting, Storing, Preparing

Squeeze the mango gently, a ripe mango will give slightly



- A ripe mango will sometimes have a fruity smell at their stem end
- Keep unripe mangoes at room temperature and once ripe can be kept in the refrigerator to slow the

ripening process

Recipes/Ideas

- Fresh mango salsa makes a delicious topping for fish and chicken dishes
- Blend mango with banana, ice, milk, and Greek yogurt for a healthy smoothie
- Try a popular Thai dish of mango and sticky rice that the kids love



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A couple of points from the Health Office:

1. Can you believe we have passed the halfway point of the school year? Although winter did NOT fly by, the school year certainly is! Considering we are at the halfway mark, please be sure your contact information is upto-date. If you need to make any changes, feel free to contact the main office at 647-3302. Also, feel free to let



me or the main office know if there is a day you are unavailable to pick up your child and who to contact should your child be sick or injured.

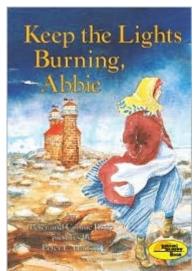
- 2. Spring is just around the corner! Please be reminded that flip flops and slides are not allowed at Buckley School. They are considered a safety hazard and should be saved for home use. Children are encouraged to wear sneakers, tie shoes (no heels) and sandals that strap around the ankle. Please continue to dress your children for cold weather. March can still be winter-like with low temperatures and a lot of wind.
- 3. 5th Grade Parents: I am collecting any physicals done AFTER 1/1/15. If your 5th grader has had a physical since that date, please send in a copy. I will enter it into the system and include it in your child's health file. This is required for entry into the 7th grade and any physical after 1/1/15 will count toward that requirement. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 647-3303.

Thank you,

Mrs. Hussey

Media Center

March is National Women's History Month and this provides us with a great opportunity to introduce children to some amazing girls and women. Most children are familiar with Ruby Bridges. Sojurner Truth and Harriet Tubman from Black History Month. So March is a wonderful time to meet lesser known heroines. Mary Anning, the fossil hunter made her first discovery at the age of 11 when she found an Ichthyosaur's skeleton. Abbie Burgess, is a New England heroine, who as a teenager kept the Matinicus Rock lighthouse lit during a tremendous storm that lasted four weeks in Keep the lights burning Abbie. Sybil rides for independence tells



of a Connecticut girl who rode to warn the colonists that Danbury was burning and to gather the Minute Men to fight the British. Another brave girl, was

Deborah Sampson from Massachusetts who disguised herself as Robert Shurtliff to fight the British in The secret soldier. Or how about what life was like when women were trying to get the vote with books such as You forgot your skirt, Amelia Bloomer or a biography of Elizabeth Cady Stanton describing the Ballot box battle. But whatever your choices are March is the month to introduce your children to the amazing contributions women have made.

The PTA will also be having a Book Fair in the gym the week of March 16th, so stop in and see the books which intrigue and delight your child.

Thank you-Ms. Lake



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PBIS Corner

The following students were selected to receive recognition for the month of February. They were selected as having shown exemplary behavior in one of the three PBIS categories. These students participated in a fun activity during our Fun Friday!

TEACHER	BE SAFE	BE RESPECTFUL	BE RESPONSIBLE
Mrs. Hoffman	Jermaine Robinson	Alyssa Puglise	George Evans
Miss Lavallee	Saadullah Quraishi	Eman Shaikh	Zoe Dobb
Miss Patrylak	Benjamin McKinney	Naol Tirfessa	Makayla Motowidlak
Mrs. Bourcier	Carter Shaw	Emma Fargnoli	Charlise Brown
Ms. Seaha	Chelsea Zalcman	Brandon Rios	Makayla Barrows
Miss Adams	Natalie Becker	Mya Patino	Jaireliz Rodriguez
Mrs. Strickland	Ibraheem Barbar	Tazim Rahman	Adriana Figueroa
Mrs. Edwards	Shane Reid	Edward Zalewa	Sam Johnson
Mr. Murphy	Katelyn Hall	Rahin Ambia	Mutashim Rahman
Mr. Sweetland	Nyere McNeil	Eno-Yaa Kissi	Caden Jolly
Ms. Godbout	Jeiraliz Rodriguez	Leesa Cabrera	Sean Williamson
Mrs. Hoke	Tanner Jorczak	Kamari Hayes	Siara Albelo
Ms. Marocchini	Dylan Kenyon	Aaliyah Parkman	Dylan Spurgeon
Mrs. Adinolfi	Abeshan Javed	William Thompson	Orlando Sanchez
Mrs. Jodoin	Teagan Ridel	John Nguyen	Joshua Lassen
Miss Brahm	Jessi Smith	Jacob Tinson	Gabe Johnson
Mrs. Rodowicz	Above and Beyond	Michael Smith	
Ms. Boccia	Above and Beyond	Isabella Shea	
Mrs. Lonergan	Improved Behavior	Jasmine Aponte	

These students received the Pillars Of Character for the month of February:

Mrs. Hoffman— Toby Johnson	Mr. Murphy— Giovanni Carr
Miss Lavallee— Jacob Budarz	Mr. Sweetland— Elliot Johnson
Miss Patrylak— Nadia Mielwski	Ms. Godbout— Sam Arruda
Mrs. Bourcier— Tessa Macdonald	Mrs. Hoke— Siara Albelo
Ms. Seaha— Michaya Cersosimo	Ms. Marocchini— Alayshia Bell
Mrs. Rodowicz—Michael Smith	Mrs. Adinolfi— Meagan Miazga
Miss Adams— Derek Yeboah	Mrs. Jodoin— Chayse Mercer
Mrs. Strickland— Joshua Beal	Miss Brahm— Adam Rodowicz
Mrs. Edwards— Austin March	Ms. Lonergan— Anthony Gagnon
Learning Center—Patrick Fraro	Social Work— Antonio Ayala
Charle P. I amouses	Art Cillian Lamelana

Speech & Language- Art— Gillian Lamphere

Pre-School— Alex Wood, Mahati Senthil, Erin Melendez, Jadon Brodi, Damian Matos

Media Center— Brandon Houghton
Speech & Language— Hector Pena
Gym— Taylor Buzzell
Music— Blake Rufini

Congratulations to everyone who was recognized! When you are in the building, please stop by our bulletin board in the main foyer to see photographs of our exemplary Buckley Bobcats!!



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Buckley School PTA News and Events

BuckleyElementaryPTA@gmail.com



Our next PTA meeting will be held Thursday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Buckley cafeteria!



The PTA will hear from the fourth grade teachers and their student representatives to find out what's going on in their classrooms. We'll recap the Variety Show and look ahead to our new event, Family Game Night, on March 20. Children are welcome!

SHOWING OUR STUDIOUS SIDE

Buckley School students are going to blind you with science on Tuesday, March 10, during the school's Invention Convention/ Science Fair. There will be 18 winners in a field of about 30 projects all judged by a panel of experts, including Manchester residents who hold patents for NASA space suits, a computer diskette storage case, and a method for turning biomass into biofuel. Pretty impressive!



UNDER THE SEA WITH SCHOLASTIC



The Spring Book Fair will be held the week of teacher conferences from March 16-20. We'll get you hooked on reading with our Under the Sea theme. Students can visit the fair before school Tuesday through Friday that week. After school, the public is welcome until 5:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday, and until 6 P.M. Wednesday. Proceeds will be used to purchase another Smart Board for the school.



A great big **thank you** to those who have volunteered their time and efforts during the first half of the school year, especially during the Variety Show and Holiday Store in December. Also, thanks to our mystery shoveler who dug out the PTA events sign near the parent loop. Your thoughtfulness hasn't gone unnoticed!

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Manchester Public Schools

Buckley Elementary School 250 Vernon Street Manchester, CT 06042 www.mpspride.org **Mr. Matthew Daly,**Principal

b21mdaly@manchesterct.gov Phone: 860-647-3302 Fax: 860-647-5007

A Great Place to Grow and Explore

February 27, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are in the process of trying to determine the number of incoming kindergarten students for the 2014-2015 school year. To help with our projections, our classroom teachers have polled their students as to siblings who they believe will be starting kindergarten in the fall. In addition, we have received phone calls directly from parents of incoming kindergarten students. Listed below is the name of the child in your family who we anticipate will be starting. Please confirm that the information we have is correct and/or make any necessary corrections and return to Buckley School.

Yes, my child will be entering kindergarten for the 2014-201	5 school year.
Child's Name Date of Birth _	
Parent/Guardian	
Address/Phone #	
No, my child will not be entering kindergarten for the 2014-2	2015 school year.
Please note that there is a Kindergarten Parent Orientation night on Ma In addition, you may register on-line by visiting the district website and may also register on-line during your child's visit to the classroom on eithis Kindergarten registration and visitation will be forthcoming.	clicking on the Registration button. You
In addition, please let us know if there are any neighborhood Buckley che dergarten in the fall and who do not currently have siblings attending ou garding kindergarten registration. Your assistance in this matter is great	r school. We will contact these families re-
Neighborhood Child's Name	
Parent/Guardian Name	
Address/Phone # (if known)	
You will be contacted in the spring regarding a kindergarten orientation look forward to welcoming you and your child to the Buckley School fa	*

Matthew Daly, Principal

Bobcat News

Sincerely



Manchester Public Schools

Kennedy Education Center 45 North School Street Manchester, CT 06042

www.mpspride.org

Mr. Matthew Geary Superintendent of Schools 860-647-3441

Mrs. Patricia F. Brooks

Assistant to the Superintendent Finance and Management

Dr. Amy F. RadikasAssistant Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

Mrs. Shelly Matfess Assistant Superintendent Pupil Personal Services 860-647-3448

February 25, 2015

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As you may be aware the Smarter Balanced assessment has replaced the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) in reading, writing and mathematics. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 will participate in the Smarter Balanced assessment. In addition, students in grades 5, 8 and 10 will continue to participate in the CMT/CAPT for science.

Manchester Public Schools plan to administer assessments according to the following schedule with specific assessment times and dates being determined by each building.

ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT WINDOW	ASSESSMENT GRADES
CAPT Science	March 2 – March 27	Grade 10
CMT Science	March 2 – March 27	Grade 5 & Grade 8
Smarter Balanced	April 27 – May 15 March 30 – April 10 April 20 – April 24 March 17 – April 3 May 15 – June 5	Grades 3, 6 & 7 Grades 4 & 8 Grades 4 & 8 Grade 5 Grade 11

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school principal.

Sincerely,

Amy F. Radikas, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction

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